

Fires Destroying Many Michigan Towns

Au Sable and Oseoceda in Ashes
—Destructive Conflagration at Alpena.

VILLAGES IN PATH OF FLAMES

Reported Loss of Life—People Driven Into Lake to Escape Death—Lumbermen Cut Off by Forest Fires.

Report, July 11.—Hardly more than half a dozen houses are left standing in the villages of Au Sable and Oseoceda, the men of Alpena is fighting a disastrous all day fire, and forest fires are razing along the line of the Detroit & Mackinac Railroad from Au Sable to Chebeygan and at other points in the northern part of the lower peninsula.

Todays' fires at Alpena and Oseoceda were not due to forest fires, but originated in a dry path that was as dry as tinder and the long dropt. At Chebeygan a mountain of sawdust caught fire and the flames threatened to spread through the

houses.

The Governor's message follows:

July 11, 1911.

To the Legislature.
The condition of the state finances demands serious attention. The expenses have been increased during the last few years, and the amount of direct taxation per annum, the appropriations signed in 1910 by my predecessor amounting to \$42,975,000. This state met a large portion of its expenditures by direct taxation down to the time that the administration of Governor Davis. During his term of office, the system of direct taxation was substantially abandoned, and a large number of indirect taxes were imposed. The last such indirect taxes were imposed to be imposed with the stock transfer tax and the mortgage tax, introduced in 1905. The indirect taxes have developed a maximum annual return of about \$2,000,000, the remaining receipts of which are derived from miscellaneous sources.

In the earlier part of their existence the expenditures were much lower and a considerable surplus was created. For the last few years, however, the expenditures have been in excess of the receipts notably so this year, the appropriations being, as above noted, \$42,975,000, and the estimated receipts \$39,000,000. Hitherto this excess has been paid from the surplus of previous years, but last year there was a surplus in the general fund of \$5,000,000. In view of the appropriations made by your predecessors and the income above noted, it is estimated that the amount of the deficit will be \$1,000,000. On September 30 next in excess of \$1,000,000. The effort made by the last Legislature to increase the revenue from inheritance taxes by gradually increasing the rate of taxation seems to have failed, as the estimated receipts from that source will be less this year than last by about the sum of \$1,500,000, though it is fair to say that this loss seems to be due to special causes.

There are rumors that some lives were lost in the fire at Oseoceda and Au Sable, but it was impossible to-night to obtain confirmation.

East Tawas, Mich., July 11.—The first from the fire swept town of Au Sable brought rumors of the loss of several lives in that village. One hundred drivers were aboard the rescue train. The car stalled and children were suffocated by the dense smoke, and died for their lives in the flames.

Alpena, Mich., July 11.—(By train to East Tawas.) A disastrous fire broke out here this afternoon in the logs on the bank of the Cedar River, just west of the tannery. A fierce wind spread flames from the bark piles of C. Moenck Sons Company, thence to their leather hide house and carpenter shop, taking a total loss of the buildings. It is said that two-thirds of the bark can be used also the remainder of the tannery, and then spread to the cedar yard of Park Christian, totally destroying it. At this point one of the city's fire engines burned. Dr. Wilkinson's residence, aburned and the fire then jumped about ten blocks, totally destroying one house, damaging two others.

When this dispatch was sent south by Penn & Mackinac train, telegraph service being interrupted, the fire was still burning fiercely, but was thought to be under control. The property loss was estimated at \$60,000.

Alpena, Mich., July 11.—A logging train in to-night from the Haakwood uses of the Michigan Central Railroad, in County Chippewa, brings the report that the forest fires are gaining headway rapidly. The trains had just crossed a long bridge when the structure fell, after a logging train coming in on the road in on the forest side of the road, and there are fears for the safety of its crew.

The Pigeon River branch of the Michigan Central another logging crew is reported cut off by burned bridges. Woods throughout the local timber areas this afternoon were compelled to abandon their camps and flee for their lives, as the interior lumber camps have been burnt, and the fire is burning steadily now that escape for the lumberjacks will be difficult.

MAN IN AUTO KILLED
Another Badly Injured in Collision with Speeding Machine.

Mr. Charles Hannan, twenty-four years old, son-in-law of Lieutenant Stephen Hannan, who was dismissed from the Police Department by former Commissioner Davis, was instantly killed in an automobile accident on Freshfield Road, Greenpoint, Staten Island, late last night. His wife, Miss Agnes Hannan, twenty-two years old, was seriously hurt and

her son, with Mr. Hannan, were driving in West New Brighton in the direction of Knechtelsville when a big tourer overtook them at great speed, and the rear wheels of their machine

were torn from the road.

Among the bills passed by the Senate were those of:

Senator Sanner, "equalizing" upward the salaries of clerks and assistants in the office of the Register of Kings County.

Senator Frawley, making an appropriation for the re-establishment of the state library, destroyed by the disastrous Capitol fire.

Senator Frawley, creating a commission to act with a similar commission of the United States and the State of New Jersey to investigate port conditions and the question of pier extension at New York.

Senator Tim Sullivan's bill extending the time in which the life insurance companies may hold their holdings of stocks and bonds as required under one of the Armstrong committee's laws, was advanced to the order of final passage.

The bill was amended in an unimportant detail, which requires it to be returned to the Assembly, but it is expected to be in the hands of the Governor within a few days.

DIVORCES R. F. MANNING
Wife Names Chorus Girl—Had Seven Detectives on Lawyer's Trail.

Justice Bischoff signed an interlocutory decree of divorce yesterday in the suit of Mrs. Mabel F. Manning against Robert F. Manning, a lawyer, living at No. 611 Fifth Avenue. The case was heard by Walter L. McCorkle as referee, who recommended that the decree be granted.

One of the women mentioned in the case was Evelyn Mitchell, who was a chorus girl in the "Follies of 1910." The testimony showed that from April, 1910, to May, 1911, seven detectives were at different times on the trail of Manning in the interest of his wife.

STANLEY COMES HERE
Looking for Evidence Regarding the United States Steel Corporation.

Washington, July 11.—Representative Stanley, chairman of the House Steel Investigating Committee, left here to-night for New York in search of further evidence relating to the United States Steel Corporation. The duties of the new job will be to render an account of the conduct of the commissioners of records in the Surrogate's office. The salary is \$5,000 a month, and the appointment of several assistants.

LEADER OF 13TH GETS \$5,000 JOB
John F. Curry, formerly Deputy County Clerk and Tammany leader of the 13th Assembly, Tammany, was appointed yesterday by Surrogate Colahan and Surrogate to the newly created office of Commissioner of Records in the Surrogate's office. The duties of the new job will be to render an account of the conduct of the commissioners of records in the Surrogate's office.

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Back numbers may be had at the office of The Tribune, 154 Nassau St. The price in New York City, Jersey City and Newark is one cent for the daily and five cents for the Sunday; elsewhere two cents for the daily and five cents for the Sunday. Where back numbers are ordered by mail one cent additional for every ten numbers should be remitted for postage.

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MORE OFFICES CUT OUT

Congressmen Now Exempted from Governor's Primary Bill.

MEASURE IS REPORTED

Official Ballot Cut Out and Referendum Vote to Abolish System Added.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Albany, July 11.—New York State is facing a deficit in its treasury of more than one million dollars at the close of the present fiscal year, according to an estimate by the State Controller. For the last few years expenditures have exceeded the receipts, and those in charge of the state's finances have been put to their wits' end to devise means of meeting the deficit.

Declaring that the situation demands serious attention, Governor Dix sent a special message to the Legislature to-day recommending the passage of Senator Hart's bill providing a tax on secured debts. The measure is in substance an extension of the mortgage recording tax law, and its passage is expected to add materially to the state's revenues.

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Well, if it gave to the Mayor alone the power it gives to the Board of Estimate, I would not trust him to dispose of the people's rights on the record he has made in office."

After the committee reported this measure Chairman Levy departed suddenly for New York. The supposition here is that he was summoned to confer with "Boss" Murphy as to whether direct nominations had been reduced to an irreducible minimum in this measure.

It does not seem wise to attempt to increase any of the existing indirect taxes. With a view, however, of carrying out the policy of indirect taxation, so far as reasonably done without encroaching on enterprise and business, a measure has been prepared by the Senate Committee on Taxation and Retirement, and is now before the Senate, Senate Bill No. 800, introduced by Senator Hart, which provides a tax for the use of the state on secured debts. This measure is carefully defined to include mortgages on property outside of the state, bonds and other evidences of debt, including especially farm and taxable securities, except commercial papers which do not now come under the operation of our mortgage recording tax law, of which this bill is a part.

The proposed tax is at a fixed rate of 1½ per cent upon the face value, like the mortgage recording tax. The payment of this tax will carry with it exemption from the tax on personal property. It is reasonable to assume that this class of property is so easily concealed that it is rarely discovered by the local assessor. The occasions on which such property is disclosed are chiefly when it passes to the state for the sale of taxes and orphans. The real estate rate is so high as to take frequently a third of a half or more of the income, and when by some chance such securities are placed in the tax-exempt class, they are taxed at a rate which is only one-half of the regular tax.

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These conditions have led to many suggestions for a fair specific tax as a substitute for the inequalities and unfair burdens of the local assessment of such personal property. Where such a plan has been adopted, and in some cases it has been in effect, it has always been an increase in the revenue and in the satisfaction of the taxpayers. People do not object to a fair and reasonable tax which bears equally on all, but they do object to a tax which is so notoriously unfair in its operations as the local taxation of personal property, under which a few are caught for heavy taxation while the rest are not.

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